

5, 40. (Amended) A method for identifying a composition which blocks or enhances the function of an NMP of renal cells, which method comprises:

D ^{expression} (a) incubating NMP-containing renal cells with a test composition under conditions that allow the renal cells and test composition to interact,

and then

(b) measuring whether the test composition causes blocking or enhancement of the ^{expression} function of [an NMP of the renal cells] a nuclear matrix protein of claim 1

REMARKS

Claims 1-47 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the claimed nuclear matrix proteins (NMPs) are "specific to renal cells", support for which is found on page 3, lines 28-30 of the present specification. Claims 16 and 40 have been amended to depend from claim 1.

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration is courteously solicited.

Claims 1, 3, 16, 17, 21, and 40-43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Coffey. Claims 1-2, 16, 17, and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Miyanaga. Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Neither Coffey nor Miyanaga discloses any NMP linked specifically to renal cells. According to the rejection, Coffey's NMP is associated with human prostate cancer, so it is not linked specifically to renal cells. According to the rejection, Miyanaga's NMP may be useful in the screening of bladder cancer, so it is also not linked specifically to renal cells. By contrast, the presently claimed NMPs are linked specifically to renal cells.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 is requested.

In accordance with the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims are requested. Should there be any questions or should the Examiner wish to

discuss any proposal to expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

April 3, 2000
Date

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